

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones, the method service-provider-specific messages comprising:
 - ~~A.~~ scheduling an appointment for a first patient and a second patient in a reminder scheduler;
reading a plurality of patient records from a file exported from a practice management system of a dental business, the plurality of records comprising first and second records;
 - ~~B.~~ getting one or more items of customer data associated with said appointment
identifying appointment data of the first patient, the first record comprising the appointment data of the first patient, wherein the appointment data indicates the scheduled appointment for the first patient;
 - ~~C.~~ retrieving one or more items of local service provider data based on said one or more items of customer data identifying a telephone number of the first patient, the first record comprising the telephone number of the first patient;
 - ~~[[D.]]~~ creating a first text message, the first text message comprising the appointment data of the first patient ~~in said reminder scheduler using said one or more items of local service provider data and said one or more items of customer data;~~
 - ~~E.~~ determining from said one or more items of customer data and said one or more items of system data a local service provider gateway; and

sending the first text message to the telephone number of the first patient; F. said message
based on said appointment to a said local service provider gateway;

identifying appointment data of the second patient, the second record comprising the
appointment data of the second patient, wherein the appointment data indicates
the scheduled appointment for the second patient;

identifying a telephone number of the second patient, the second record comprising the
telephone number of the second patient;

creating a second text message, the second text message comprising the appointment data
of the second patient;

sending the second text message to the telephone number of the second patient.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein reading a plurality of patient records comprises reading patient data posted via an https socket ~~further comprising the step of sending said message from said local service provider gateway to a messaging device.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim ~~[[2]]~~1, further comprising generating reminders for each patient identified in the plurality of patient records ~~wherein said messaging device is selected from the group consisting of a telephone, a pager, and an e-mail system.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim 1, further comprising validating a name and unique identifier of the first patient ~~wherein said message is selected from the group consisting of a text message, an e-mail message, and a pager message.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a log-in request via a browser of the dental business; wherein at least one of said one or more items of customer data is a telephone number

querying the dental business to determine whether the dental business wants to import patient data;

receiving a response indicating that the dental business wants to import patient data;

importing the patient data, wherein importing the patient data comprises reading the plurality of patient records.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim 1, further comprising configuring message settings of the text message based a preference of the patient.

~~configuring message settings for the text message wherein generating said message is based on a rules engine.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein the preference of the patient comprises a time that the text message will be sent ~~wherein said messages are sent at configurable times.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein creating ~~said~~ the text message is based on a template.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim ~~[[1]]~~8, further comprising defining a message template, the message template comprising first and second tokens ~~wherein sending said message is based on a~~ template.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim ~~[[1]]~~9 wherein creating the text message based on the template comprises replacing the first token with a name of the patient and replacing the second token with a time of an appointment of the patient ~~said one or more items of subscriber data is in a database.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim 1 wherein the text message comprises information that identifies the dental business ~~said~~ messages are sent over a network.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim ~~[[11]]~~ wherein reading a plurality of patient records is performed by a web server ~~said network is the Internet.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

retrieving local service provider data based on the patient records ~~the step of scheduling an appointment on a Graphical User Interface.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A method for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones ~~service provider specific messages~~ as recited in claim 1 further comprising determining a local service provider gateway based on the patient records ~~the step of importing said customer data from a practice management system.~~

15-28. (Canceled)

29. (New) A system for sending appointment reminders to patients' mobile telephones, the system comprising:

a reminder scheduler programmed to schedule an appointment for a patient;

a web server programmed to receive patient data from a practice management system of a subscriber's computer, the patient data comprising appointment data, wherein the appointment data indicates the scheduled appointment;

a first database configured to store the patient data;

the reminder scheduler programmed to determine when to send a text message reminder to a patient based on the appointment data;

a rules engine programmed to determine a device to which the text message reminder is to be sent.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, further comprising a system gateway configured to send the message to a local service provider gateway.

31. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the subscriber comprises a dental business.

32. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the subscriber comprises a medical business.

33. (New) The system of claim 29, further comprising a second database configured to store system data, the system data comprising template information for generating the text message.